

2 Corinthians 4 (NLT) - 4 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way,[a] we never give up. 2 We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. 3 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. 4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

5 You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. 8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you. 13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." 14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. 15 All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

The strength of our resolve will match the scope of our vision

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) - 3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about how our perseverance will match our perspective. That looking beyond all of this and into the glory of God's plan for the world and His plan for us will change what we can endure. Is there a time in your life where you can remember how a shift in perspective changed things for you? It doesn't have to be a spiritual example.

Perspective shifts can bring dramatically change our inspiration and belief in pushing past things that seem, on their own, unsurmountable. Take a moment to read 2 Kings 6:8-17. When you read that story what stands out to you about perspective and how it changes things? What do you think the difference was for servant before and after his eyes were opened? How would he have felt before? How about after?

Perhaps the most important question is: what changed? The only thing that changed was that the servant saw something he didn't see. He went from being so sure that they were going to be defeated, to likely brimming with confidence that they could not be touched. And the army was already there! It didn't arrive then, he just saw it then. There is always more going on than we can see.

What are some ways that you can pursue God's perspective? How can our eyes be opened to His view of things?

One way to do as Elisha did, to ask God for it. So, take some time to pray for that for each other.